

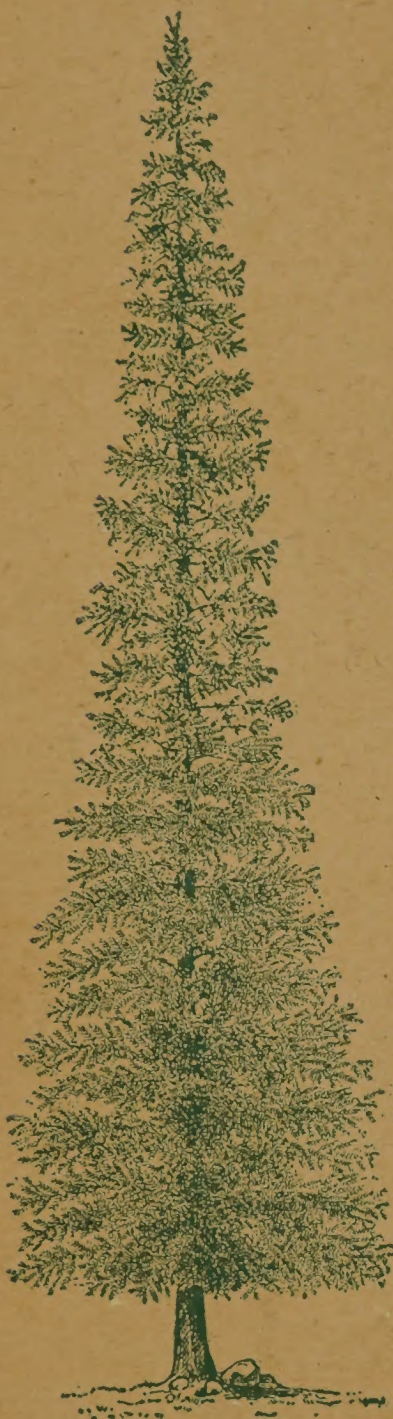
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# ENGELMANN SPRUCE

(*Picea engelmannii*)





# BOOK MARK

## ENGELMANN SPRUCE

(*Picea engelmannii*)

Lumbermen and woodsmen generally know this tree as "spruce" although some call it "white spruce." It is, however, commonly known to foresters and to botanists as "Engelmann spruce."

Engelmann spruce is an important tree of the higher mountains of the Southwest. It forms extensive, almost pure forests at elevations of 10,000 to 12,000 feet and occurs at elevations as low as 8,500 feet on protected north slopes and along moist canyon bottoms.

How Engelmann spruce may be identified

**Form.**—Distinctive features of the spruce are its spire-shaped top and dense crown, the branches often extending to the ground.

**Needles.**—Arranged singly on the stem, four-angled, stiff and prickly, usually about an inch in length, but longer on young, vigorous trees, deep blue-green in color, except in new growth which is often silvery. Engelmann spruce is apt to be confused with "Colorado blue spruce," with which it often occurs in mixture. The much stiffer and very keenly pointed needles and the absence of minute hairs on the twigs of the Colorado blue spruce are distinguishing characteristics.

**Cones.**—Light brown, usually from 1 to 2 inches long, with thin, papery scales. They are usually bunched at the top of the tree.

**Seed.**—Small winged, blackish brown in color, about one-eighth inch in length.

**Bark.**—Scaly, thin, dark purplish brown or russet red, composed of very loosely attached small scales.

**Uses of Wood.**—The wood of Engelmann spruce is soft, straight-grained, of a very light yellowish to faintly reddish-brown color and light in weight. In the Southwest very little Engelmann spruce is being cut at present. It is used locally for general construction, railroad ties, poles, mine props, and house logs.

**Prevent damage to the forests—It pays**

*For information regarding the national forests, ask the forest ranger, or write to the Regional Forester at Albuquerque, New Mexico.*